

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 SP-02 USIA-06

AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04

OMB-01 CEA-01 COME-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 PRS-01 L-03 /094 W

-----211541 123051 /41

R 211445Z FEB 77

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5969

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0474

KINSHASA FOR USDEL TO ECA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECA, OCON, AG, UN

SUBJECT: UN ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA (ECA) MEETING,
KINSHASA, FEBRUARY 24-MARCH 3

REF: STATE 32074

1. NO INFORMATION YET AVAILABLE ON COMPOSITION OF ALGERIAN
DELEGATION. NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON GOA VIEWS HAVE BEEN
RELEASED.

2. WE EXPECT NO CHANGES IN ALGERIAN ATTITUDES TOWARDS
ECONOMIC ISSUES AND THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER.
ALGERIANS CLAIM PATERNITY OF NIEO AND WILL NOT DISOWN THEIR
CHILD. WE WOULD EXPECT THEM TO GIVE STRONG RHETORICAL
SUPPORT FOR INCREASED ROLE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IN
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, GENERALIZED DEBT
RELIEF, INCREASED AID FLOWS, ACTIONS TO CONTROL
THE MULTATIONALS, INITAIATIVES TO IMPROVE LDC ACCESS TO
CAPITAL MARKETS, THE UNCTAD COMMON FUND, INDEXATION OF COMMODITY
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PRICES, AND EFFORTS TO SPEED TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FROM DCS TO LDCS.
LATTER THREE ARE ISSUES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO ALGERIA,
BUT WE DOUBT THE DEPTH OF ALGERIAN ATTACHMENT TO SOME OF THE
OTHER EXCEPT AS A MEANS OF DEMONSTRATING ALGERIAN
LEADERSHIP ROLE. WE WOULD ALSO EXPECT ALGERIA TO
CONTINUE TO PORTRAY OPEC AS THE ONLY POWERFUL WEAPON
AVAILABLE TO THE LDCS IN THEIR STRUGGLE TO ACHIEVE NIEO.

WE PRESUME THIS WILL NOT GO DOWN WELL WITH OIL-IMPORTING ECA MEMBERS BUT ALGERIA IS LIKELY TO COUNTER COMPLAINTS ABOUT OIL PRICES WITH SPIRITED DEFENSE OF OPEC'S SUPPOSED ROLE AS LDC DEFENDER.

3. WE NEVERTHELESS EXPECT ALGERIA TO TAKE A SOMEWHAT LESS STRIDENT TONE THAN IT DID AT THE 6TH AND 7TH SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA AND AT UNCTAD IV. THIS CLAMOR TONE WAS EVIDENT AT THE COLOMBO NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE AND HAS BEEN NOTICEABLE IN THE ALGIERS PRESS AND IN U.S./ALGERIAN BILATERAL RELATIONS, WHICH ARE INCREASINGLY BASED ON IMPORTANT, CONCRETE ECONOMIC TIES AND LESS AND LESS ON PURELY IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. THE DIFFERENCES ARE AS STRONG AS EVER BUT THE ECONOMIC REALITIES NOW ARGUE FOR LESS VITUPERATION AND AN OCCASIONAL SHOW OF REASONABLENESS TOWARDS THE U.S. AND THE DCS IN GENERAL. WE THUS EXPECT ALGERIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ECA MEETING TO RESEMBLE THEIR STANCE AT COLOMBO MORE THAN THE AGGRESSIVE POSTURE THEY ASSUMED AT THE UNGA SPECIAL SESSIONS.

4. INR REPORT NO. 687 (1/14/77) ON ALGERIA IN THE GROUP OF 77 GIVES A GOOD SUMMARY OF ALGERIAN POSITIONS ON MOST ECONOMIC ISSUES.

LYNE

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